HF Happenings

No 502

April 2012

A future radio amateur? JJ le Roux, my grandson, born 08:05 on Monday 23 April 2012

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

ZS3 Sprint

The ZS3 Sprint, which will be run from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 6 May, is run to promote contacts between radio amateurs in the Northern Cape and radio amateurs in Southern African countries. It is a phone and CW contest on the 40-metre band, and the exchange is RS(T) and provincial or country abbreviation.

ZS3 stations will earn 1 point for a QSO from ZS3 and 2 points for a QSO from other ZS call areas or Southern African countries. Other stations will earn 2 points for a QSO with a station in ZS3 and 1 point for a QSO with a station outside ZS3. Contacts with the Northern Cape ARC, ZS3NC, Namaqualand Aero Sport Association, ZS3FLY, or the Kalahari Karoo ARC, ZS3ARK, are worth 5 points each. Only one contact per station is allowed.

Log sheets must be submitted by 13 May and can be sent to ZS3 Sprint, PO Box 1049, Kathu, 8446 or by e-mail to zs3nc@qsl.net.

The AWA Valve QSO party

On Saturday 12 May and Sunday 13 May, the Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO party will be held. On Saturday the AM leg will be run and on Sunday the SSB leg. On both days the contest runs from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC (15:00 to 19:00 CAT) and frequencies to use are - 40 metres: 7 060 – 7 100 and 80 m 3 603 to 3 650 kHz.

The exchange is call sign, a RS report, a consecutive serial number starting at 001 and the type of rig used. The scoring (your radio) - All valve radio 3 points per contact; Hybrid radio 2 points per contact; Solid State Radio 1 point per contact.

Logs must be submitted by 28 May 2012 and can be sent to AWA of Southern Africa; PO Box 12320, Benoryn, 1504 or by e-mail to andyzs6ady@vodamail.co.za. Certificates will be awarded to the three highest scores in each category.

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?

Marion Island

Rory Meyer, ZS6RGV, is the new radio technician at Marion Island base, the Daily DX reports. He is expected to be very busy for a few weeks, and in the meantime Pierre, ZS1HF (ex ZS8M) will be supporting Rory with obtaining a ZS8 call sign.

WPX Awards via LoTW Enters Beta Testing

Earlier this year, the ARRL and CQ Communications announced that the ARRL would provide support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) electronic confirmation system. The WPX Award is the first of the CQ-sponsored awards that LoTW will support. "We had originally planned to introduce this new program in early April, but due to the introduction of the new DXCC fee structure and our new Online DXCC application, we had to push the date back," explained ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "We are now beta testing the program with a select group of radio amateurs and are looking forward to launching to LoTW-WPX partnership in the first part of May."

Read more at http://www.arrl.org/news/wpx-awards-via-lotw-enters-beta-testing

LA1KHA PP3 challenge

One of the leading Summit on the Air (SOTA) activators in Norway is Kjell, LA1KHA. Kjell has activated in the Germany, Czech Republic, England, Wales, Scotland, Sweden and Denmark associations as well as Norway.

He introduced a challenge to see who could make the most QSOs from a SOTA summit from a single 9 V PP3 battery. Several leading SOTA activators have enthusiastically entered into this challenge, and some of the results have been outstanding.

Leading the way is Kjell himself, with 569 QSOs from a single 9 V battery using a Rockmite rig. Richard Newstead, G3CWI, has been challenging hard, and has squeezed 461 QSOs so far from an Energizer Hi-Tech 9 V battery, using a homebrew 100 mW rig specially built for the challenge. It has been named the "Top Gun Special" by the constructor, probably in honour of his favourite local summit - Gun G/SP-013! This has spanned no less than 42 individual summit activations, and 17 DXCCs have been worked.

The photo shows the inside the radio as it was being developed. For more information about the Summits on the Air programme, please visit the website http://www.sota.org.uk

April 2012

26 to 30 – Harley Davidson Africa Bike Week, Margate
27 – Freedom Day; closing date May RAE
27 and 28 – Graskop Blue Swallow festival, Graskop
27 to 29 – Dirtopia Mountain Bike Festival, Tarentaalkraal
27 to 30 – SA Cheese Festival, Stellenbosch
28 and 29 – John Dory's Orange River Canoe Marathon, Hopetown
29 – Summerveld Hike, Summerveld, KZN
30 – School holiday

May 2012

1 – Worker's Day
5 and 6 – Riebeek Valley Olive Festival, Riebeek Kasteel and Riebeek West; LA Sports 4x4 Products in Action Show, Pretoria
6 – ZS3 Sprint
12 – SA AMSAT Symposium, Durban
12 and 13 – AWA Valve QSO Party
13 – Mother's Day
17 – Ascension Day
18 to 20 – ABSA Calitzdorp Port and Wine Festival
20 – ZS4 Sprint
24 – Radio Amateur Exam
26 and 27 – CQ WPX CW Contest
27 – SARL Digital contest
30 – SARL 80 m Club contest, digital

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?

I think this could work for RaDAR as well!

Kindle Book

Ed, WA3WSJ, has released a new Kindle book "Amateur Radio and the Great Outdoors" http://www.wa3wsj.org/WA3WSJ-Kindle-Book-Store.html on the joys of operating "out and about." It is 300 pages long, it covers all sorts of topics associated with portable operation - antennas, power sources, hiking, safety, and more. This is a companion to Ed's "Amateur Radio Pedestrian Mobile" book.

N1MM add-on

Dick K6KAL has created a Frequency Display http://www.qsl.net/k6kal/ add-on for N1MM that shows main VFO and secondary VFO frequencies in a variable window and font size, variable font size, type, and colour to make the information easier to see.

The Super Check Partial database

I will be releasing another version of the Super Check Partial database files on or around 9 May 2012. I am requesting your logs for input to the database files.

Please attach in an email the same Cabrillo format log that you submitted to the contest sponsor and send it to logs@supercheckpartial.com. If you have already sent me your logs, there is no reason to send them again.

Logs from any contest within the last 24 months are always appreciated. Some of the more commonly submitted logs are from - CQ WW DX - CW, Phone, RTTY; CQ WPX - CW, Phone, RTTY; CQ 160 M - CW, Phone; ARRL DX - CW, Phone; ARRL Sweepstakes - CW, Phone; ARRL RTTY Roundup; ARRL 10 M; ARRL 160 M; IARU Radiosport; Russian DX Contest; Worked All Europe - CW, Phone, RTTY

More info on SCP at http://www.supercheckpartial.com

Word to the Wise

Brag tape - a pre-programmed message describing a station's equipment and accomplishments. The word "tape" recalls the long-gone days when RTTY teleprinters used punched paper tape to store messages.

Caribbean Trip

Barry, ZS1FJ/9V1FJ (G4MFW), will be active from the Caribbean between 9 and 20 May 2012. His planned schedule as follows:
09 - 11 May - PJ7/G4MFW (St. Maarten) and FS/G4MFW (St. Martin)
12 - 14 May - PJ5/G4MFW (Saba)
15 - 16 May - FJ/G4MFW (St. Barthelemy)
17 - 20 May - PJ2/G4MFW (Curacao) and PJ4/G4MFW (Bonaire)
Dennis, ZS1AU, is the pilot station (did not know Dennis could fly!) QSL via 9V1FJ.

African DX

Mozambique, C9. Daniel, ZS6JR, and Dior, ZS6DJD, will be operating from Mozambique for seven days starting on 3 or 4 May 2012 depending how quick they can get the equipment up. The idea is to park next to a small lake at Shai Shai, Mozambique, 400 km north of the capital and

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?

operate with vertical antennas with the earth wires in the water. Daniel has decided to take a Hex beam antenna as well. The team will work mainly 20 to 10 metres, including 17 and 12 m. there may be a chance for 80 and 6 m operation.

Democratic Republic Of Congo, 9Q. Sergiy, UV5EVJ, is working as 9Q0HQ/7 using CW and SSB on 80 – 10 m from Lubumbashi during his spare time until May 22. He is part of the UN mission MONUSCO. QSL via homecall.

Uganda, 5X. Freddy, F5IRO, is expected to be here on a work assignment starting early May to June (exact days are not yet known). With the help of David, 5X1D (KH9AE), and some others, he is hoping to get a license during the first week of his arrival. On his arrival Freddy plans on setting up his Elecraft K3 and DIY antennas, probably verticals or dipoles, space permitting at the location. Activity will be on CW on the upper HF bands, especially on 10 MHz in the evening (5X = GMT + 3) and possibly some PSK operations. Watch the DXClusters for spots. QSL is via Michel, F8DFP, by the French Bureau or direct (w/SAE and IRC). For more updates and information, watch Freddy's Blog page at http://j28ro.blogspot.com

Somalia, 6O. Andy, RN3AKK, reports that Darko, J28AA/E70A, will once again be active as 6O3A from Hargeisa between 25 and 31 May. Activity will be on SSB, RTTY and 50 MHz. QSL via K2PF. For possible updates (under news), online log, and pictures, check out the Bosnia and Herzegovina Contest Club's Web page (BHCC) at http://bhcc.ba

Sudan, ST. Robert, S53R, will be active as ST2AR from Khartoum during the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (26 and 27 May) as a Single-Op/All-Band (TB) entry. QSL via S53R or LoTW.

Senegal, 6W. Al, F5VHJ, will once again be active as 6W1RY during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (27 and 27 October) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via F5VHJ, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

African Islands

Mauritius, 3B8, AF-049. Mart, DL6UAA, is once again active as 3B8MM from Mauritius (AF-049), the length of his stay is not known. Listen for him mainly on CW with some SSB and digital modes on 160 – 10 m. QSL via home call. See also http://www.dl6uaa.de/indexa.html

Canary Islands, EA8. Members of the Gran Canaria DX Group and the local URE radio club will be active as EG8WFF from the Biosphere Reserve of Gran Canaria on 5 and 6 May. They will operate SSB, CW and RTTY on all bands from the island's central mountains (1 350 m asl). QSL via EA8AKN.

Special Event Stations

Ukraine. Special event station EM350S will be active from 01 May to 30 June 2012 to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Ivano-Frankivsk city [1662 - 2012] (Grid Loc. KN28), Ukraine. The station will be active on all HF bands and 6 metre CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via UW8SM direct, Bureau, LoTW and eQSL.

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Gibraltar, ZB. Look for ZQ prefixes to be used from 5 May to 10 June in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Mike, ZB3M will be active as ZQ3M (QSL via home call, direct only) and Edward, ZB2ER will use ZQ2ER (QSL via home call, direct only).

Azerbaijan. The following special event stations with the suffix SONG or S0NG will be activated during the "Eurovision Song Contest" until 15 June. 4JS0NG, Safari Club, 4J4K; 4KS0NG, Gen. Aslanov Club, 4K7Z; 4K2012SONG, Leonid, 4K8F; 4J12SONG, Serqey, 4J5A; 4K9SONG, Vladimir, 4K9W; 4K12SONG, Boris, 4K4K; 4K6SONG, Vladimir, 4K6C; 4J5SONG, Natig, 4J5T; 4J7SONG, Octay, 4J7A; 4JR0SONG, Morita, 4JR0HYT; 4J1SONG, Andrey, 4K6DI; 4K1SONG, Mehdi, 4J7FM; 4J9SONG, Rashad, 4J9M; 4K4SONG, Asif, 4K6AL; 4K8SONG, Mixail, 4K8M and 4J4SONG, Denis, 4J9NM

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 24 to 30 April 2012.

SKCC Sprint
00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 27 April 2012
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 – 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op – QRP, Low or High
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name, state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 28 April 2012
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/onair.html

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:30 - 02:00 UTC 27 April
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 29 April 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 29 April 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

10-10 International Spring Digital Contest
00:01 UTC 28 April to 23:59 UTC 29 April
Mode: Digital
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: Individual; Club; QRP
Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 14 May 2012
E-mail logs to: tentencontest@roadrunner.com
Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 131 Valencia Lane, Statesville, NC 28625
USA
Find rules at: http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSO%20Party%20Rules.pdf

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?

Nebraska QSO Party
11:00 UTC 28 April to 17:00 UTC 29 April
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single; Mobile
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: NE: RS(T) and county; non-NE: RS(T) and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band per mode per NE county
QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW or digital QSO
Multipliers: NE Stations: Each NE county, state, province, DXCC country once; Non-NE: Each county once
Power: High: x 1, Low: x 2, QRP: x 3
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x power mult
Submit logs by: 31 May 2012
E-mail logs to: nqp@hdxa.net
Mail logs to: HDXA NQP, PO Box 375, Elkhorn, NE 68022-0375, USA
Find rules at: http://www.hdxa.net/neqso/12nqp_rl.pdf

SP DX RTTY Contest
12:00 UTC 28 April to 12:00 UTC 29 April
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band; Multi-Op; SWL
Exchange: SP: RST and 1-letter province; Non-SP: RST and QSO no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with same country; 5 points per QSO with different country same continent; 10 points per QSO with different continent
Multipliers: Each SP province once per band; each DXCC country once per band; each continent once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total DXCC/province mults x continent mults
Submit logs by: 29 May 2012
E-mail logs to: sprtty@pzk.org.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.pkrvg.org/zbior.html

Helvetia Contest
13:00 UTC 28 April to 12:59 UTC 29 April
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB, Mixed or Digital; Single Op QRP – Mixed; Multi-Op - CW, SSB, Mixed or Digital; SWL
Max operating hours: 18 with a maximum of two rest periods of any length
Exchange: HB: RS(T), serial no and 2-letter canton; non-HB: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: HB Stations: 1 point per QSO with Europe; HB Stations: 3 points per QSO with non-Europe; non-HB Stations: 3 points per QSO with HB
Multipliers: HB Stations: Each canton once per band; HB Stations: Each DXCC country once per band; non-HB Stations: Each canton once per band

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Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14 May 2012
E-mail logs to: contest@uska.ch
Mail logs to: Dominik Bugmann, HB9CZF, Im Geeren 27a, 8112 Otelfingen, Switzerland
Find rules at:
http://www.uska.ch/fileadmin/download/Contest/KW/1-static/KW-Contest_english_2010.pdf

QRP to the Field
15:00 UTC 28 April to 03:00 UTC 29 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op (see rules for theme); Multi-Op (see rules for theme); Club (see rules for theme)
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and name
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each state, province, country once per band
Location: (see rules for theme mults)
Score Calculation: Total score = QSO points x total mults x location mult
Submit logs by: 28 May 2012
E-mail logs to: na5n@zianet.com
Mail logs to: Paul Harden, NA5N, QRPTTF 2012, PO Box 757, Socorro, NM 87801, USA
Find rules at: http://www.zianet.com/qrp/QRPTTF/ttf.html

Florida QSO Party
16:00 UTC 28 April to 01:59 UTC 29 April and 12:00 - 21:59 UTC 29 April
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - CW, Phone or Mixed - QRP, Low or High; Single Op Assisted - CW, Phone or Mixed - QRP, Low or High; Multi-Single - CW, Phone or Mixed - QRP, Low or High; Multi-Multi - CW, Phone or Mixed - QRP, Low or High; Mobile Single Op - CW, Phone or Mixed - QRP, Low or High; Mobile Single Op and Driver - CW, Phone or Mixed - QRP, Low or High; School- CW, Phone or Mixed - QRP, Low or High; SWL
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: FL: RS(T) and county; W/VE: RS(T) and state or province; DX: RS(T) and DXCC prefix
Work stations: Once per band per mode per FL county
QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO
Multipliers: FL Stations: Each state, VE province/territory, DXCC country, maritime region once per mode
Non-FL: Each county once per mode
Power: High: x 1, Low: x 2, QRP: x 3
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x power mult
Submit logs by: 31 May 2012
E-mail logs to: logs@floridaqsoparty.org
Mail logs to: Florida QSO Party, c/o Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ, 5362 Castleman Dr., Sarasota, FL 34232, USA
Find rules at: http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/rules.html

BARTG Sprint 75

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17:00 – 21:00 UTC 29 April
Mode: 75 Baud RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op Expert; Single Op All Band
Exchange: Serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: DXCC countries once regardless of band; JA, W, VE and VK areas once regardless of band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x continents
Submit logs by: 31 May 2012
E-mail logs to: logs@bartg.org.uk
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.bartg.org.uk/documents/contests/sprint75/rules/2012/bartg-spring-sprint75-rules.pdf

Next Week's Contests

AGCW QRP/QRP Party, 13:00 - 19:00 UTC 1 May
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 May
10-10 International Spring CW Contest, 00:01 UTC 5 May to 23:59 UTC 6 May
ARI International DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 5 May to 11:59 UTC 6 May
7th Call Area QSO Party, 13:00 UTC 5 May to 07:00 UTC 6 May
Indiana QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 5 May to 04:00 UTC 6 May
ZS3 Sprint, 13:00 – 17:00 UTC 6 May
New England QSO Party, 20:00 UTC 5 May to 05:00 UTC 6 May and 13:00 - 24:00 UTC 6 May
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 7 May
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 May

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 23 April 2012.

1348 – The Order of the Garter, the first English order of knighthood is founded (23 Apr)
1507 – Martin Waldseemuller, a geographer of Germany names 'Amerige' to the part of the globe, America (25 Apr)
1719 – Daniel Defoe publishes 'Robinson Crusoe' (25 Apr)
1770 - Captain Cook lands at Botany Bay, Australia (28 Apr)
1789 – Fletcher Christian leads the Mutiny on the HMS Bounty and sails to Pitcairn Island (28 Apr)
1791 - Samuel Morse born, Charlestown, Mass. USA (27 Apr)
1792 - In Paris, at the place de Grève, the guillotine was used for the first time when highway-man Nicolas Pelletier is executed (25 Apr)
1813 - Patent for rubber was given to J.F. Hummel of Philadelphia, PA (28 Apr)
1865 - SS Sultana exploded, 1 450 of 2 000 paroled Union POWs die. Worst in US history (27 Apr)
1900 - Marconi International Marine Communication Company Ltd. Formed (25 Apr)
1900 - Marconi Patent 7777 for tuned coupled circuits (26 Apr)
1904 - Hulsemeyer, Germany, patents first 'radar' system.

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?

1915 - Gallipoli Landings - an ill-fated but heroic campaign commenced (25 Apr)

1986 - At 1:23 am Ukraine, the fourth reactor at Chernobyl atomic power station exploded (26 Apr)

1990 – Hubble space telescope is placed into orbit by the shuttle Discovery (25 Apr)

2005 – Airbus A380 makes its first flight from Toulouse, France (27 Apr)

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?